STATE OF FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF CITRUS

FLORIDA CITRUS COMMISSION

1115 E. MEMORIAL BLVD. / P.O. BOX 148 / LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33802 / TELEPHONE 813-682-0171

EDWARD A. TAYLOR
Executive Director
General Manager

July, 1977

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter regarding our contracted spokesperson Anita Bryant. The volume of mail in support as well as opposing her position precludes a personal response.

The present controversy over Anita Bryant in no way involves the members, growers, canners or Commissioners of the Florida Department of Citrus.

Anita Bryant, like everyone else in America, enjoys the protection of free speech under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. Whether we agree or disagree with what Miss Bryant says, we are obligated as law-abiding Americans to defend her Constitutional right to say it.

What she says as a private person is none of our business under the law of the land. Our role is to serve the best interest of the orange growers of our State and the consumers of America who look to us for a steady supply of nutrition abundantly available in our citrus products.

Therefore let us be clear: We draw an indelible line between Anita Bryant as spokesperson for Florida oranges and Anita Bryant, a private person.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Taylor

Edward A. Taylor
Executive Director

EAT/m